

St. John Emlenton 11:00 7/6/69

*Processional Hymn 437
*Choral Call To Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel. 49 Pg. 597
Hymn 440
Scripture Matthew 16: 13-20
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements
DOUGLAS GARLAND NEXT SUN. 13th
LAMARTINE

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 436
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 442
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Salem Lamartine 9:30 7/6/69

*Processional Hymn 184
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
()ripture Matthew 16: 13-20
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

CHOIR 7:00 WED.
TRIAL SERMON DOUGLAS GARLAND? NEXT SUN.
JULY 13th 11:00?
CONSISTORY MEETING 8:00

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 246
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
Hymn 469
Benediction
*Threefold Amen

The Church Of Christ

Text: Matthew 16: 18

20 MAY
So THE HYMN
STATES

"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord. She is His new creation by water and the word; From Heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride; With His own blood He bought her and for her life He dies." *BUT IS HE?*
IN OUR PRESENT DAY WORLD THE FOUNDATION SEEMS TO BE EVERYTHING ELSE
This past week I read with great interest two articles in the current issue of Christianity today about the Church. Now when we speak of The Church we usually put quotation marks before The and after Church, while in our minds we usually think of the United Church of Christ. But let us for today and for these few moments forget the United Church of Christ and think of the Church Universal, the church throughout the world. The church at large in other ~~words~~ words. The articles in question were written by two very well known men. The first by L. Nelson Bell the father-in-law of Billy Graham, and the other by Carl Henry the former editor of Christianity Today now on a Sabbatical to England and ~~Scot-~~land. Each man in his own way had something important to say about the church and each stressed one thought very similarly. That in too many cases Jesus Christ and His gospel are missing from the church. Mr. Bell states the following. "Quote" This in a nutshell is what many people have been saying and thinking for sometime. I have often felt that our churches were neglecting the real issue and that is to bring men to Christ and to bring Christ to men. What good is a church if all it does is function as a center for the distribution of food, clothing, or employment? We can use our schools for these functions or any vacant store for that matter. What needs to be done is to once again make our churches the hub and the center of the Gospel of Jesus. ^{CHRIST} For years the church has permitted poverty to exist around it. For years it has tolerated racial prejudice and discrimination within its own ranks. Now since some people in the government have taken notice of the need for money and legislation in the realm of these areas, every church or group professing to spread Christianity has come alive and is waving the banner for helping the poverty stricken, for spreading brotherhood. What I am saying and what this Mr. Bell is saying is that our churches have flopped miserably in these areas. That suddenly they have ~~been~~ looked around them and have gotten red in the face

because they have realized that someone else is doing the job they should have been doing. ^{ALL ALONE} Hence the over emphasis on poverty and racial relations. And because of this the real purpose of the church has gone begging and that is the spreading of the Gospel. We perhaps should all be praying that ~~the~~ ^{the} church universal may come to its senses and begin to spread the word. ^{May} ~~Begin~~ to become concerned with the souls of people and whether they have the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His saving grace.

But of even greater impact is the article by Mr. Henry. He tells of traveling in England ~~and Scotland~~ and what he has learned about Christianity there. He tells of a little town near Cambridge called Huntingdonshire where Oliver Cromwell was born. Fifteen years ago he states that biblical Christianity had ebbed so low that evangelical witness was practically non-existent. But a small group of believers have banded together for witness in prayer and bible-reading and today almost every little village of Huntingdonshire has an evangelical service on Sunday and a week night bible study group. The Church needs a revival of this throughout all of the world. It cannot indulge the luxury of sitting back and being smug and complacent about Christianity. We need people in each local congregation who will act as the prod that perhaps gets the ball rolling for bible study groups and the stirring up of other people toward this end. Now I know that to many people Bible study sounds like a boring way to spend an evening. But with the right person to head it and ~~the~~ enough interest shown by many of the congregation and not just a few, bible study can be a real challenge. It can make for a complete revival in almost any church if it is given a chance. A young boy had gotten his grandmother a Bible for Christmas. He wanted to inscribe a proper inscription on the front page. He racked his brain until finally he happened to remember that his dad had a book with an inscription in it. So he got the book out and copied it. You can imagine grandmas surprise when she opened the ~~present~~ ^{BIBLE} on Christmas morning and found neatly inscribed on the first page of the bible, "To Grandma, with the compliments of the author." We may never know the bible so well that we will receive an inscribed version from the author, but we sure can work toward the end that we understand it, and want to learn more of it.

The bible is a very strange book indeed. Not that it is so

different from other books, but that it has a different affect on people than a regular novel for instance. If the bible is read as it should be read, with meditation after a reading of it, it can change a persons life and especially their thinking. Mr. Henry uses the folling quote which I thought was typical of almost any given church not only in this country but throughout the world. "Quote"

How many people do you and I know who would feel that something was wrong if an individual who supposedly was a Christian, became a convert one sunday morning? ^{IDEA ABOUT THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE} This happened not only in this church in England but it can happen to anyone. ^{CHURCH & CONGREGATION} I have often been asked how it is that I got started in this Lay-Ministry program and why I want to do this. Quite simply it involves an incident that happened to me a number of years ago. Shirley and I were struggling along as some young couples do. We had a goodly number of bills and we had sickness at the time with our oldest son. In general we were wound up pretty tight and it seemed that no matter what we did everything went wrong. ^{WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN} I was working 4 to midnight at the time. For some reason or another a picture kept coming into my mind of the ordination of several fellows to the Roman Catholic priesthood. I had seen this picture in Life or Look or one of this type of magazines and it had left an impression on my mind. In the picture these men were stretched out prone on the floor of this cathedral before the Altar, showing publicly their humility before God, and pledging themselves to His church and Jesus Christ. And this is what stuck with me. That these men had lowered themselves as far as it is possible to do for their Lord. For some strange reason I got the idea that if I would be able to do this that perhaps my life could become different. So I came home at one AM and everyone was asleep. And with my nose buried in the living room rug, I prayed to Jesus. I don't remember the exact words, but they were something similar to this, "Dear Jesus take me and use me as you will, I want to work for you and belong to you, my life is meaningless without you." And from that night to this very day my life has not been the same. The life of our family has not been the same either. We still have our problems and we still have debts. But the joy of the Lord lives in each of us and after all this is what makes life livable. "Conversion, say other churchgoers, is, after all, something that can't happen to a church member."
 I WAS SUPPOSEDLY A XTIAN WHEN THIS HAPPENED TO ME.

This quote from Mr. Henry can and could be seconded by almost any church. The reason being that we in the church think that we have accepted Jesus on our admission as members and this is all that is necessary. This may be so. However for some of us our Christianity may have slipped a little through the years. Maybe we are not feeling as close to Jesus as we should. Perhaps we may feel lost and confused. Perhaps life may have taken on a drab dreary look. If this is so I ask that when we close ^{THIS MORNING} with prayer, that you join with me in asking ~~the~~ God to help us and to rule our lives. It only takes a second to make ~~an~~ a decision for Christ as Billy Graham and the other evangelists say. Perhaps you would like to think of it as a new affirmation of faith. Whichever the case don't fight it, let us each put Jesus in our hearts today. Let us pray.

I JUST COMPLETED READING A BOOK GOD IS FADDLED BY A WOMAN WHO ACCEPTED CHRIST AT THE AGE OF FIFTY. SHE HAD BEEN A CHURCH MEMBER ALL OF HER LIFE, BUT SHE SAID SHE HAD NOT BEEN A CHRISTIAN.